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LAMBDA

PROUDLY SERVING THE LAURENTIAN UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY SINCE 1961

Laurentian network receives major upgrade

BY MATTHEW
DESROSIERS

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Laurentian University has been around since the 60's, and without a doubt some parts of the campus are a little run down and in need of renovations. Computer services is no exception to this. Granted, the department hasn't been around for fifty years, but its hardware is ancient by industry standards.

As undoubtedly anyone on campus has noticed, lately the network has been slow. Half of the time the Internet is moving slow, and the other half it isn't moving at all. Residence students have had nothing but complaints regarding the status of their Internet connection since last year. Faculty have also had their share of complaints with regards to the GroupWise e-mail system, which has been glitchy and unreliable.

"We have a 100mb feed coming into the University," said Jeff Sutton, Director of Computer Services. "It all goes through a centralized unit. This is part of the problem. It's an old piece of equipment and is way over utilized."

The unit itself is a Cisco 7500 series router. Essentially what it does is receive the Internet feed and send it through to the rest of the network. Those who are computer savvy will know that the Internet sends information through packets, each traveling through the network to its destination. If a unit does not reach the destination with the rest of the packets, the information will be re-sent through the system. According to Sutton, this is causing a sort of 'traffic jam' centralized on the old router.

"The router is running at 100% capacity," Sutton said. Because the equipment is running at max capacity, it does not matter what changes are made throughout the network. The network will not get any faster. To fix this problem, Computer Services has decided to replace the old equipment with new models in order to handle the increased usage.

The new pieces of equipment that were purchased for the upgrade were dual Cisco 7600 series routers. These new routers are redundant systems, which essentially means that if one system fails, the other will continue to run and the network will experience no visible failing to the users. Computer services uses the term 'Business Critical' to label any system that they cannot afford to have fail for any length of time. Both the router and GroupWise have been labeled as 'Business Critical', but up until now weren't. The upgrades have changed this with the redundancy in the system.

"When we fix this problem, we're doing it such a way that it will be fixed for a long time,"



Matthew Desrosiers / LAMBDA

Students using the computer labs on campus will find a much improved network, both in speed and reliability. Once the upgrades are complete, computer services will maintain a pro-active campaign to improve service across campus. This campaign includes a re-evaluation of computer labs on campus, such as the one shown above.

Sutton said. Sutton also believes that the 100mb of Internet that is currently running into the University is more than enough to handle the usage. "After we put the new equipment in we will re-evaluate. If we need to buy more Internet, we can," he added.

Sutton also pointed out that the network will not be completely redundant everywhere. For example, the GroupWise system was not redundant, and it failed often. The equipment was very old and lots of money is being spent to replace it, according to Sutton. With over 9,000 accounts currently saved to the GroupWise system, technicians are finding it very time consuming to transfer all of the information over to the new equipment. "To move the 'post office' (stored documents and e-mails) will take almost a month to completely transfer," Sutton said. That is a month after the GroupWise system begins running on its new equipment.

Once all of the new equipment is installed, the routers will go from currently running at 100% capacity to merely 15% of capacity, according to Sutton's estimations. Network users should experience a considerable improvement in Internet speed, as well as more reliable GroupWise service. Residence students, however, are not so lucky. Since last year, Computer Services have been sending requests to residence students asking that they lower their bandwidth consumption. Peer-to-peer programs such as Limewire and BitTorrent allow students to download movies, television shows, music etc. There are those

who download more than others and take up an extremely large amount of the allocated residence bandwidth.

"We provide bandwidth to everyone is residence, but we cannot manage it," Sutton admits. "We have to manage the network, but we don't want to restrict users." As a result, there are a low number of students who are using up all of the bandwidth that should be going to other students, resulting in slow Internet.

This problem is being fixed by a new system called Net Equalizer. According to Sutton, this system will allow Computer Services to guarantee bandwidth to each student. "Each place will get at least a good amount of Internet," Sutton promises. What is a 'good amount'? Sutton claims that after Net Equalizer is installed, each room in the residences should receive better than high speed Internet, and there will be no restrictions on the type of usage

(within the law, of course). The equipment for this system is being shipped shortly, and should arrive and be installed by mid-December. When students come back from the Christmas break, they should be experiencing a whole new network, faster and more efficient than the first.

Another important group has also been affected by the lack of reliable Internet services on campus. The students in the Medical School rely heavily upon video conferencing for their classes. These conferences connect students with faculty at Lakehead University. During classes, the video conference would cut out for five or ten minutes before coming back on, which Sutton admits is no way to run a class. As a result, the department was given the go ahead to spend a lot of money of these new upgrades which would take care of three major problems at once. It would seem that the problems experienced by the students at the medical school was the catalyst for this large and expensive upgrade, however it benefits the entire campus.

It should be noted that this is not the only move Computer Services intends to make during the year. "Once we get the new system active, we have to be proactive and make changes as necessary," Sutton said. "The computer services staff is extremely dedicated to the University. We're doing a number of things to improve our service." One such thing is the re-evaluation of the computer labs on campus. Sutton is forming a sub-committee to the Teaching and Learning committee for this purpose, in hopes of making further positive changes for computer services on campus.



Matthew Desrosiers / LAMBDA

The new extension to the Arts building is beginning to take shape. The building, which is designed to hold the new Tim Hortons, as well as a class room and the computer store, is slated to be ready by early 2007.

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Lambda circulates 2,200 copies throughout the City of Greater Sudbury and the Laurentian University Campus. We thank the following for permitting us to circulate our paper at their establishments.

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Lambda Publications is the bi-weekly student newspaper of, by and for the students of Laurentian University. Lambda is funded through a direct student levy by members of the Students' General Association / Association generale des etudiantes, yet remains autonomous from all university organizations, both student and administrative.

SCE 301 Student Centre
Laurentian University
Sudbury, ON P3E 2C6
(705) 673-6548

lambda@laurentian.ca

WRITE TO US

Include your full name and student number. Please keep articles to a maximum of 700 words. Lambda reserves the right to edit for content considered sexist, racist, homophobic, heterosexist, for length, or legal purposes. Letters of a harassing or slanderous nature will be dealt with by the proper authorities.

E-MAIL SUBMISSIONS

Please e-mail submissions to lambda@laurentian.ca. Ensure the file is saved as TEXT or Word, as other files may not be transferable to Mac format. To be considered for print, all submissions must have your name and student number.

EDITOR'S CORNER

Lambda's last issue for the 2006 year

Well folks, I'm sitting here working on the last issue of Lambda for the 2006 year, and I have to say it's exciting. I am looking forward to a peaceful December (after exams), and the rest and relaxation that awaits me at home. Before I go home, however, there are a number of things we need to take care of at Lambda. These include but are not limited to finding a new Assistant Editor (see our ad in this issue), working on some of the suggestions we have received from our readers, and cleaning up this mess of an office.

We have received a number of suggestions from you about things you'd like to see in Lambda. With a little work I think we can make some of these

happen, and I'm going to push hard throughout the next month to get everything in place for our first issue of the new year. We're also trying to come up with ways to get you guys more involved in this paper. As you already know, we love to receive content from the students! Our Space for Rant section has been pretty quiet since September, which I don't understand because I hear people ranting on a daily basis. If you want to be heard, then send it to Lambda! Also, if you can draw, take pictures, or if you just want to help out around the office, contact me! There is a lot to be learned from the experience of working at Lambda. Everyone here is very friendly, so don't be shy to stop in and see how you can contribute!

Best wishes from the SGA/AGE

Well the end of 2006 is fast approaching, and I'm sure that crunch week is making it seem to fly even faster. Well the bad news is that you still have a few more weeks of scholarly hell left, but the good news is that soon you will be sitting around with your family, friends, or other loved ones far from the chaos that the end of a semester brings.

Here are a few reminders before you head home for the holidays: don't forget that the opt-out checks for the health plan are available in the SGA office if you haven't picked them up already, and that once exam period starts, the SGA office will operate under reduced hours until the new year, so if you need to reach us and want to be sure that we'll be there, send us an email at sga@laurentian.ca ahead of time so that we can make arrangements if necessary.

Just because we have reduced office hours, doesn't mean that we stop working for you while you're pulling out your hair trying to cram three months of learning into two nights of studying! We will be meeting early next week with city transit to figure out a schedule of buses during the exam period, which hopefully means that we will have some school specials to get you to and from your exams, including on the Saturdays, where we previously had to take the Regent University route (which wasn't so bad because it gives you more study time, but it still meant you had to be downtown earlier).

We are also well on our way with the planning for our two big February events, Charity Ball and our annual Day of Action against Tuition Costs. The theme for this year's charity ball will be "Hollywood Premiere" so expect a red carpet and lots of flashing cameras as you enter the always fun semi-formal. This year for



LUKE NORTON
SGA PRESIDENT

the Day of Action we have plenty of great stuff planned, some of which is a surprise. I can tell you, however, that at a recent Senate meeting we passed a motion that saw the university declare February 7th a day of academic amnesty (where Profs aren't supposed to schedule exams, tests, etc or penalize you for not attending class. We did this, not so you could skip and play Nintendo Wii all day, but so that you can hop on one of the free Greyhound buses we'll have waiting to take us to Toronto for one of the biggest student rallies in recent history!

So we've got plenty to keep us busy over the break, and I'm sure you've got plenty to keep you busy as well. Remember to take some time for yourself amid all the craziness of this time of year, and get your self centered again. Have a great time with your families and friends, and cut loose a little. After these next few weeks, you'll have earned it.

Have a safe and joyous break, everyone!

SPACE FOR RANT

How exactly do you submit a piece for Space For Rant... it's easy! Email us at lambda@laurentian.ca, call us at (705) 673-6548, or drop us a letter in the mail at SCE 301 Student

Editorial



So enough about that, let's talk about exams. Ugh, I just threw up a little bit in my mouth there... Ok, I'm good now. No one likes these things. They're just major cause of stress and sleep deprivation, in my opinion. I feel as though there should be a better way to evaluate students at University than to sit them in a huge gym, stress them out, and ask that they remember every detail of the past three months of classes. Regardless, the system isn't changing anytime soon, and we all have to go through these miserable things in a few weeks. All I can suggest is that we all

work hard and do what we can, but don't let it stress you out. Stay calm, relax a little bit, and enjoy the freedom from classes. I've never found it beneficial to write an exam with two hours of sleep and a bad case of cross-eye from too much studying. I'm merely suggesting that everybody paces themselves, do the best that you can, and hopefully I'll see everyone on the other side!

Can you believe it is already 2nd semester...well, almost anyway. It blows my mind. It seems like just last month I was moving in. I look at it as a good thing. I've done a lot of work, the year has gone by fast, and I've enjoyed it so far. I'm not sure that I'll be so excited to end the year in April, but I sure am pumped to get out of 2006! The New Year presents a list of new adventures. There are tons of events going on around campus, and it feels as though it's a new start. All the batteries are recharged and ready to go. If you had a mediocre first semester, you get the chance to have an amazing second semester! It's almost as if first semester didn't exist...well, unless you have a bunch of six credit courses.

Anyway, so long everyone until 2007! Good luck on your exams, and have a wonderful holiday. I look forward to speaking with you again soon.

LOCS off until next semester

Hello all my loyal readers! This will be the last article for LOCS until the new semester. You have quite a bit to look forward to though because we have some more stuff coming up for you. Next semester will bring about a Hockey Tournament, Formal and a winter party. Plus another board game night and maybe another movie night if there is interest. We are having a meeting this Thursday at 4 p.m. if you want to come out and speak your mind or give up your ideas you are more than welcome to come. The location has not been secured yet but on the day, if you head to the SGA office they will be able to tell you then. Or you can e-mail any of your ideas to LOCS@laurentian.ca.

OFF CAMPUS REPS

There is one important matter I would like to bring up before I let you go and it is directed to everyone who is off campus. The SGA recently elected four Off Campus reps. These people are here to help you, the off campus students. They do not have an office but they do have e-mails and many of them sit in the LOCS offices. If you come by the LOCS office you can always leave a note and we, the LOCS



committee, will give your complaint to them or you can e-mail them yourself;

Russell Boden;
RJ_Boden@laurentian.ca

Brodi Beagen;
BX_Beagan@laurentian.ca

Kayla Turpin;
KX_Turpin@laurentian.ca

Stephanie Leon;
SX_Leon@laurentian.ca

You can e-mail these people with any problems you have at all. They are hard working, devoted individuals and want to help you if you need it. Give them a shout if you need help. All of them and everyone from LOCS would also like to wish you good luck on your exams!
-Sarah Patterson
LOCS President

Centre, Laurentian University, Sudbury, ON P3E 2C6. Remember: Lambda is the voice of the students. Make sure your voice is heard.

GENERAL NEWS

Food security network works to ensure healthy food for all

BY ALEXANDRA TAYLOR
SCIENCE & TECH EDITOR

In 2005, 4700 children relied on food banks. 36% of students ate less than 5 servings of fruit and vegetables a day. There are three times as many fast food restaurants as there are grocery stores, and there are 4 towns within the city limits that do not have any grocery stores at all. For those on Social Assistance or living in poverty, Greater Sudbury is not an ideal place to find healthy, sustainable nutrition. However, there are a number of organizations in the area that are trying to create a new system of community partnership that will benefit everyone.

The Sudbury-Manitoulin Food Security Network is a group that was formed when organizers realized that a number of food security issues were not being addressed in the area. The term 'food security' considers a number of things, including local food self-reliance, through economic development in agriculture. It also includes universal access to healthy and personally appropriate food choices, ensuring that all members of society have access to healthy food, regardless of financial barriers. Food security also promotes sustainable management practices in all areas of the food industry.

The Sudbury Manitoulin Food Security Network has a four-fold mandate: reducing hunger and reducing dependence on food banks, providing access to healthy food in all areas, supporting local farmers year-round,

and ensuring that sustainable development and production is in place.

In 2004, the Food Security Network created a Charter that provides a guide for all municipalities in the Sudbury-Manitoulin area, and the Sudbury & District Health Unit supports and promotes the FSN Charter in their offices throughout the area. Through this charter, the FSN hopes to advocate, educate and aid research that will help to improve food security in all districts.

The Food Charter aims to promote the community economic development model, in order to utilize local food assets, as well as to support all members of the food system, from producers to consumers. In turn, the charter helps to create awareness of global issues and how they impact the local food system and the food that people in Northern Ontario eat.

The Charter is divided into four sections, with each contributing and connection to each other. The first is Population Health and Wellness, which includes ensuring that all citizens have adequate income, employment, housing and transportation to ensure food accessibility. Additionally, the Charter promotes nutritional education in schools and other public places. Community Development is the second step in the Charter, including a community report card, community-based food programs, multicultural food festivals, and emergency preparedness plans. The third mandate in the Food Security Charter is

investment in the regional food system, ensuring that local producers and agricultural communities are supported and encouraged, and that the community is aware of the availability of local resources. Last but not least is the Development of a Sustainable Food System, which encompasses education about the interdependence between food systems and a sustainable environment, as well as implementation of renewable technologies and sustainable waste management practices, among other things. More information on the Charter can be found at:

www.foodshedproject.ca/food_security.htm

The Food Security Network works to endorse the Food Charter, and they seek to involve and educate members of the community to raise awareness and encourage initiatives that will help to improve food security. They also have an Action Committee that works as a group to develop data for an annual Community Food Security Report Card. This committee is divided into groups that access various members' skills and expertise, including Health, Economy, and Environment. The Food Security Report Card is used to examine a number of food security issues, assess emerging trends, understand the current production assets as well as weaknesses, and develop an integrated approach in order to build partnerships and coalitions. The Report Card also seeks to develop a "snapshot" to assess the levels of community food security, and in turn to build pol-

icy recommendations. The Community Food Security Report Card measures the characters of food insecurity, including important demographic information as well as accessibility.

According to the 2006 Food Security Report Card, Sudbury has an unemployment rate of 7.4%, and there are over 400 people estimated to be homeless. Additionally, Hunger Count 2005 reported that there has been a rise in single-parent families and those on Social Assistance who have been using food banks in the area. It is estimated that 7.5% of families in the area are food-insecure, with the highest rate from sole support parents. The Sudbury-Manitoulin Network provides access to a number of feeding programs, including soup kitchens, fresh food depots, school feeding programs, and non-perishable emergency food banks. The Horticultural Society Grow a Row program, which donates fresh produce, supports local food banks. While the necessity of food banks is not being denied, the FSN advocates a move to food self-reliance, including community-based food programs, community gardens, fresh food box programs, and collective kitchens. It is hoped that awareness will also lead to nutritional education programs, chronic disease prevention, and food safety. Support of local food systems also helps to educate citizens about the importance of understanding what is in the food being consumed, and where it comes from.

The Action Committee and the Food Charter have been suc-

cessful at promoting a multitude of food security initiatives, including improved grocery store bus routes, salad-bar programs in schools, community shared agriculture programs, roof top gardens, and fresh food delivery programs. Additionally, they have provided support for emergency food plans, local food promotion, sustainable waste management, and environmental education, including energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives.

The Food Security Network holds meetings 5 times a year, and they also organize a number of community events, including an annual educational conference. The FSN was also instrumental in organizing and promoting World Food Day 2006 celebrations that were held at Market Square in downtown Sudbury. In addition to the Food Security Report Card, the FSN hopes to continue endorsement of the Food Charter throughout the Sudbury-Manitoulin District, as well as creating a food systems map and a local food directory to provide the community with direct access to local agriculture.

In a community where there are 41 food banks and over 10 thousand people with inadequate access to healthy food, the Sudbury-Manitoulin Food Security Network is essential. Through education and awareness, the FSN and their supporters hope that hunger can be eliminated, and that sustainable agriculture and healthy eating can be promoted and encouraged.

CALLING ALL WRITERS/PHOTOGRAPHERS/ARTISTS

Lambda is always looking for contributors to help out with the newspaper!

If you are interested in writing for us, taking pictures, submitting drawings, sharing ideas, or just want to help out in any way you can, let us know!

Contributing to Lambda provides wonderful opportunities to learn new skills, and have fun while doing it.

Every student deserves to be heard, whether you are 1st year or a graduate. Lambda is your Newspaper, and your Voice! Come be a part of it!

Contact us at lambda@laurentian.ca, or call 673-6548. If you want to stop in, we're on the 3rd floor of the Student Centre, room SCE 301!

Football fans gather for SPAD Grey Cup party

BY LAUREN LAROCQUE
SPORTS EDITOR

While PotBangers are celebrating the successes of varsity teams and looking forward to more sports in the New Year, many Laurentian students took a break from varsity sports and took in some football at the Grey Cup party.

The Grey Cup is awarded to the top team in the Canadian Football League. Since being donated by Lord Albert Henry

George Grey, the fourth Governor General of Canada, in 1909, the trophy has been broken numerous times, stolen, and held for ransom. It was also in a fire in 1949, but luckily was relatively unscathed because it got snagged on a nail and hung out harm's way. This makes it one of the awards with the most history in North American sports. Regardless of its controversial past, the Grey Cup tournament draws in fans every year, and fans

here at Laurentian were no exception.

This year's Grey Cup took place on November 19, between the BC Lions and the Montreal Alouettes. The party was held in the Huntington Social Centre and was attended by approximately one hundred students. Event organizer Jonathan McNeil said "the cheering was pretty much split down the centre with the BC fans being a little louder and a little more rowdy". The enthusiastic BC fans would not be disappointed, with the Lions eventually winning the Cup. Apart from cheering on their favourite team, there were plenty of activities for fans to do. The obvious choice was a football throwing contest, with the winner receiving a CFL practice ball. Raffles were also available for approximately fifty prizes. Major prizes included two Tigracats home game tickets, a twenty inch television, a personal vending machine and a signed Ricky Williams jersey. Another highlight activity was a squares board, where contestants could pick a square representing what they thought would be the final score, with the winner taking home half the proceeds. The SPAD Grey Cup party was run to raise money for a field trip for fourth year students and was sponsored by Labatt. Overall, the event was a perfect way to celebrate the Grey Cup for all football fans at Laurentian. Stay tuned in the New Year for information on a Super Bowl party.

GET YOUR MONEY BACK!

The holiday's are fast approaching, and we all need that little extra cash in our pockets!

Your Health Plan opt-out cheque is waiting to be picked up!

If you filled out the form at the beginning of the year, stop in the SGA/AGE and pick up your health plan opt-out cheques ASAP!

COLUMNS

Have Mercy: Holiday wishes from Student Services

BY MELISSA LAFONTAINE
AND JAN CARRIE STEVEN
VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

So the semester is nearing its end. What does this mean? Well for most students it means hunkering down and getting to work on studying for those dreaded exams. It also means the Holidays are nearing and that the stress of the Christmas season is upon us. There are cookies to bake, presents to buy, carols to sing and many last minute things to worry about. But for some of us, the most stressful aspect of this Holiday season is that we are perhaps not in the most stable economic state. The truth is that we have all felt it at one time or another. Money seems to be extra tight at Christmas and this is a big burden to bear.

Luckily, the **LU Pre-Medical Society**, the **SGA**, **AEF**, **Student Services** and **Spiritual Life Services** are here to help!

Attention all hungry LU students in economic need!!!

If you find yourself "financially challenged" this Christmas, you can come to Student Services (L-210) in the Parker Building and request a special Christmas food basket. These will be delicious food hampers filled with the necessities and some frills so that you can have a wonderful Christmas without having to worry about food! Those requesting baskets can come and see Belinda in L-210 or email her at blavoie@laurentian.ca. She will take down any necessary information (ie. food allergies, any children, etc) and assign a confidential number to your request. You can also request, at this time, to have your basket delivered if you live off-campus. All basket requests must be in by **December 15th, 2006**. Baskets will be ready for pick-

up/drop-off on **December 20th, 2006**.

Don't feel awkward. Remember that Oprah Winfrey was once poor when poor meant no flush toilets, no shoes, and no real chance to get ahead in the world. Today, she gives back. In 1998 she began a charity aimed at encouraging people around the world to make a difference in the lives of underprivileged others. To date, Oprah's Angel Network has raised more than \$51,000,000. Winfrey personally covers all administrative costs associated with the charity, so 100% of all funds raised go to charity programs.

Attention all members of the LU community!!!

Are you looking for a worthy cause? Would you love to help our LU students in need? Well round up some office enthusiasm and get everyone you know involved. Anonymous cash/gift certificates and non-perishable food donations are very welcome and can be dropped off to Belinda in Student Services L-210 at any

time before December 15th, 2006. We would love to get as many members of the LU community as possible involved in this venture. Also, the team would love for you to encourage students-in-need to contact us.

LU's Pre-Med Society and Student Service's Volunteer Coordinators look forward to a continuing kindhearted relationship. Watch for "Coats for the Cold" in January, "Hearts for Haiti" in February, and our 1st Annual "Grandmothers to Grandmothers" fundraiser in March.

I cherish the guideline given by John Wesley, an 18th century humanitarian and chaplain:

"Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can."



Contributed

Mercy has her elf hat on and is busy preparing her Christmas basket full of toys, canned goods, packaged foods, and hot chocolate.

LU's Intramural Corner

BY THE INTRAMURAL
COORDINATORS

Jump, sprint, duck and slide! Come participate in the Intramural Nordic Ski Games. The event will be taking place on Friday, January 26, 2007, on the Laurentian Nordic Ski trails, from 1pm- 3pm. Do not worry if you are a beginner for there will be many opportunities to participate on and off your skis. However, the main component of this Intramural Event is skill development! Registration will be taking place in the Department of Active Living (Ben Avery Building) from Monday, January 8, 2007 until Friday, January 13, 2007, from 9am- 12pm, 1pm- 4pm. You do not need your own equipment; skis are available for rent at the reasonable sum of \$2 per person. Come out and participate in a fun, active environment, and learn some new Nordic Skills!

Also in Intramurals, over the past few weeks, the teams of the Men's Basketball Intramural were involved in two challenges, which added an extra twist to the typical game of basketball. The first challenge was the Team Theme nights, which gave players a chance to show their creativity during the games. We would like to thank all the teams who participated in the team theme night and congratulate the winners for their awesome effort. The winner for the best dressed team was Team Ron who dressed as "A day at the beach" and the winner for the best dressed individual was Tom Barker from Team Huntington #3 who headbanged his way down the court as a rock star. Both Team Ron and Barker will receive prizes from sponsors, including gifts from Staples Business Depot and New York Fries.

The second challenge was

the quest to be the highest scoring player in the competitive and non-competitive leagues. The results were close but two men dominated the courts. For the competitive side, Chad Thompson scored a whopping 26 points, while Ron Ouellette for the non-competitive league smacked down 25 points. Both players received a hat, compliments of ProAm Sportswear and a Staples Business Depot package.

All teams are working hard and with the season coming to an end, we are inviting everyone available on Tuesday and Thursday nights between 9pm and midnight to come out and cheer for your favourite teams. Games are played at both the Ben Avery and Teachers College gym, and fans will have the opportunity to enter a draw for a prize at the end of the season. The convenors thank all those who have come out and supported our Intramural program to date and we wish all teams the best of luck in their final games!

Do you like basketball, water or both? If so, you are in luck! Intramural Water Basketball will be held on Friday, March 2, 2007 and is sure to be a wet, buzzer beating time, right in time for March Madness! Staff, faculty, and students are welcome to sign up FREE at the Department of Active Living Office from January 15, 2007 to January 19, 2007. So come get involved, try out a new sport, and kick off the Madness of March with your registered team. The event will be held at the Laurentian swimming pool so come join the excitement! For more information please contact the Department of Active Living, 675-1151 ext 1018.

Patterson's Unclassifieds: Macbeth

By Sarah Patterson

Hello! This is the section of the Lambda where we want to hear what you have to say. Let's be realistic here though, you do not want to write in, making sure to have good grammar, spelling and take up all that time coming up with a decent argument. So instead, I have decided to come to you. The idea of this section is for a topic to be chosen (by myself or anyone who will suggest it) and for several unsuspecting victims to be chosen and questioned on this subject.

One of Shakespeare's great plays; Macbeth was recently being shown at Thorneloe University. Starring Luke Norton and Ashley Parent it is only one of many plays that have been shown at Laurentian. Although many students tried and succeeded at escaping the confusing world of Shakespeare's English and all that is Shakespeare, there are always going to be many people who enjoy going to see his plays. Five students who have seen this play were asked just how they felt about Laurentian's own Macbeth.

Kayla Turpin:

I thought Macbeth was fantastic. The director did a great job at keeping with the classic Macbeth we all know while infusing post-modern elements. The acting was incredibly well-done; Luke Norton played a passionate Macbeth while Ashley Parent's Lady Macbeth was delectably baneful. The costumes were simplistic but we're still integral to the play as the costumes were colour-coded to show the distinction between the "good" guys and the "bad". The only part I disliked about the play was the filmed footage of certain scenes; though the concept was neat I felt that it detracted from the play.

Sammi Forshaw:

I never thought sexuality could play such a dominant role in Macbeth, but never the less Valerie Senyk certainly pulled it off successfully. The actors definitely gave it their all on opening night, and I would especially like to give a hand to Lady Macbeth and Macbeth. The costumes also complemented the strong relationship that this interpretation has between sex and violence. Overall I found the performance to be entertaining, and I really liked the idea of collaborating film with live theatre. I give this performance two thumbs up!

Dani Beaulieu:

I wasn't completely thrilled with this play...I enjoyed the set very much, found it quite clever how they utilized different mediums to convey the message or story of Macbeth: i.e. filmed parts. While the lead characters were quite talented, I was disappointed with many of the minor characters acting.

Carolyn Woodley:

Sorry but I found the play over sexual. There was an excess of sexuality where there was no need. The lighting was off as was the music. Some actors did a fair job but these were few and far between. Perhaps a modern edge overall would have been better.

Kevin Green:

The taped scenes took away from the play and it was always very loud. Luke was fantastic in his lead role performance. It was confusing how the play wasn't modernized but Macduff's kid had a PSP. There were things about the costumes that could have been better and the sexy theme seems like a far jump in logic.

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CAMPUS NEWS

Sudbury dance festival raises awareness and support for Tsunami relief

BY ALEXANDRA TAYLOR
SCIENCE & TECH EDITOR

The Fraser Auditorium came alive at the end of October with the sights and sounds of dancers from Sudbury and Northern Ontario. Hosted by Tsunami Rx and the Ontario International Development Agency, and Coordinated by Darnelle Lowe and Julie Obonsawin, the 2006 Sudbury Dance Festival was a fantastic success, showcasing a number of dance styles as well as raising awareness and support for areas that are still recovering from the 2004 tsunami.

The Ontario International Development Agency (OIDA) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization governed by volunteers in Ontario, Canada. OIDA provides humanitarian aid programs to promote skills and education in order to alleviate poverty and hunger in communities in Canada and world wide, mainly focusing on South Asia and West African Countries.

After the tragic events of the Indian Ocean Tsunami of December 26, 2004, OIDA & Tsunami Rx identified India's post-tsunami recovery needs for reconstruction and rehabilitation. The Sudbury Dance Festival raised money for one of the projects, which includes improving conditions at the "Sirumalar" Home for Children and middle school in Surulacode, Tamil Nadu, India - a Tsunami affected area where over 10,000 persons died. The Home supports up to 122 orphaned children, boys and girls ages 5-15, from mixed castes and religions, and it is run by seven Sisters of the Congregation of Teresian Carmelites. At the moment, the Sisters operate the orphanage and the school on a monthly budget of \$676 Canadian. This income comes from the donation of one Nun's salary, which is paid to the Nun by the Government of Tamil Nadu, India for her teaching responsibilities at the school, and a temporary emergency loan from the Catholic Diocese.

The evening began with a performance by the Company G Dance Studio, a local group consisting of 25 members, ages 7 to 20. They often perform at fundraisers and events in

Sudbury, including at Christmas teas and children's shows. Together for 4 years, Company G performed three hip-hop influenced dance routines over the course of the evening and were awarded top prizes by the judges for their performances.

The judging panel included members of the Sudbury community, all of who are very involved in the arts community in Sudbury. The judging panel also included Nagamuttu Rakunathan, who traveled from Sri Lanka for the event. Rakunathan is a founder of the Asparas Bharatha Natyam dance group, and they have performed in a dozen countries around the world, including a beautiful demonstration at the festival.

The winners of the competitive side of the festival included the Nickel City Cloggers, a group of Sudbury women who have danced at retirement homes and nursing homes throughout Sudbury as well as in schools and friendship centres. In beautiful silver and black outfits, the Cloggers perform using a variety of musical styles, and the audience at the dance festival was treated to two different performances. The Nickel City Cloggers were awarded top marks by the judges and were proud to support Sudbury and its dance scene.

Other performers included the Sudbury-based Earthdancers, whose modern dance performances inspired the audience. Very involved in fundraising efforts, the group has contributed over \$53,000 dollars to Friends of the Earth, Trans Canada Trail, the World Wildlife Fund and Sudbury Vegetation Enhancement Technical Advisory Committee in the sixteen years that they have been performing.

The crowd was also treated to performances by Le National Raks Baladi, a bellydancing troupe from Sudbury, the Funky Groove Dance Program, who encouraged movement and physical health with a performance of Michael Jackson's Thriller, and two groups of Ukrainian dancers, including a youth group and Veselka dancers.

Preparing for a trip to Nunavut the next day, the 3 Wolf Paws hoop dancers performed an

amazing demonstration of a number of traditional hoop creations, including the Eagle, the World, and the Snake. Together for one year, the three boys were accompanied by two drummers who provided the soundtrack and vocals for the performance.

Finishing off the evening was the Spirit of World Drum Circle, facilitated by Jeff Stewart. The group included more than a dozen people of all ages, and their performances were nothing short of incredible. Encouraging the crowd to get involved, Stewart invited former mayor David Courtemanche on stage to perform alongside the drummers, and on a number of occasions, the dancers from other groups joined the circle to dance and embrace the power of the drums.

With such beautiful and moving performances, the 2006 Sudbury Dance Festival was inspiring, challenging, and successful at raising awareness about tsunami relief efforts and the incredible work that aid agencies worldwide are able to accomplish through fundraising.

Project Focus & How your participation for the festival can make the difference:

For \$0.25: a child will have notebooks, stationary, pens, pencils and crayons for one month.

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For \$1.20: a child will have enough hygiene supplies to keep them healthy for one month
For \$8.00: a child can eat a very nutritious diet for one month.

For \$100.00: enough sports equipment (soccer balls, skipping ropes and badminton sets etc) can be purchased for an entire orphanage.

For \$130.00: enough plates and cups can be purchased for an entire orphanage.

For \$500.00: Bedding (mats, blankets and pillows) can be purchased for an entire orphanage.

For \$500.00: a complete library can be purchased for an entire orphanage.

For \$1000.00: a complete playground (swings, slides, monkey bars and merry-go-rounds) can be purchased for an entire orphanage.

Laurentian SNO team researchers win national award

BY ALEXANDRA TAYLOR
SCIENCE & TECH EDITOR

Faculty from the Physics Department received an incredible honour on November 15th, being awarded the first John C. Polanyi award from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Council of Canada this year. They were awarded for their work and contributions to science as members of the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory research team. In addition to the acclaim, the three members were presented with a research grant of \$250,000.

Recipients from eight Canadian universities and government labs were awarded for their work in designing and operating the SNO laboratory for the last 16 years. The Sudbury Neutrino Observatory (SNO) is a unique neutrino telescope, the size of a ten-story building, two kilometers underground in Inco's Creighton Mine. The researchers have contributed to the important discoveries on neutrinos - tiny, neutral elementary particles that interact with matter via weak nuclear force. Through its use of heavy water, the SNO detector provides new ways to detect neutrinos from the sun and other astrophysical objects and measure their properties. The heavy water in the core of the SNO detector has the unique ability to detect all three types of neutrinos and SNO scientists have been able to deduce the total number of neutrinos of all types reaching us each second from the Sun, as well as the number of electron neutrinos, the type produced in the Sun's core.

The SNO detector consists of 1000 tonnes of ultra-pure heavy water enclosed in a 12-meter diameter acrylic plastic vessel, which is surrounded by ultra-pure ordinary water in a giant 22-meter diameter by 34-meter high cavity. Outside the acrylic vessel is a 17-meter diameter geodesic sphere containing 9,456 light sensors, which detect tiny flashes of light emitted as neutrinos are stopped or scattered in the heavy water. The flashes are recorded and analyzed to extract information about the neutrinos causing them. At a detection rate on the order of 10 per day, many days of operation are required to provide sufficient data for a complete analysis. The laboratory includes electronics and computer facilities, a control room, and water purification systems for both heavy and regular water.

The construction of the SNO

Laboratory was completed in 1998 with support from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, the National Research Council of Canada, the Northern Ontario Heritage Foundation, Industry, Science and Technology Canada, Inco Limited, the United States Department of Energy, and the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council of the U.K. The heavy water is on loan from Canada's federal agency AECL with the cooperation of Ontario Power Generation, and the unique underground location is provided through the cooperation and support of CVRD-Inco Limited.

Since 1985, the Laurentian SNO group has had key roles in site selection at the mine, and in the planning and construction of the SNO laboratory and detector. Materials monitoring, cleanliness supervision, communications and the implementing of a lab monitoring system were Laurentian responsibilities during the construction phase. During the measurement phase, Laurentian scientists supervise the monitoring of SNO's heavy water, assess background levels for the neutrino measurements, monitor materials and lab cleanliness, oversee a supernova watch program and participate in the data taking and analysis activities. Laurentian also provides personnel and financial services for the SNO site office.

"Laurentian University is a founding member of the SNO collaboration. I am pleased to acknowledge the extraordinary work of the team, which led to this award," said Dr. Judith Woodsworth, President of the University. "I would particularly like to congratulate Professors Doug Hallman, Clarence Virtue and Jacques Farine, three dedicated Laurentian physicists who have made key contributions to the establishment of the laboratory and its research from the very beginning. Their work enhances the University's research strengths and our city's national and international reputation."

The NSERC John C. Polanyi Award was introduced to honour the scientific achievements of Dr. Polanyi, a Canadian chemist who won the 1986 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. The research prize, awarded for the first time this year, aims at recognizing an individual or a team whose research, conducted in Canada, has led to a recent outstanding advance in natural sciences or engineering.

SGA Rocks the curling rink

BY KEVIN GREEN
VP STUDENT SERVICES

On Saturday, November 18th, over 80 SGA members gathered within the Copper Cliff Curling Club to battle in what could be Canada's number two winter sport, curling. Eighteen teams were formed and these teams got to have three games over the course of the day. With some teams you could see it was their first attempt on the ice, as curling rocks were often over-shot or not shot very hard at all. Constant screams of "Sweep harder!" were heard, even though some curling rocks were never destined to make it to where they needed to be, even with all the sweeping in the world. And some teams came ready for the rink,

outfitted all in matching attire and really rocking the competition. Whatever people were there for, a lot of fun was had and a lot of alcohol was consumed. At the end of the day, the most improved team was the International Squirrel Attack, and all those members left with a coupon for a free Topper's pizza.



Contributed

Students hang out after a long day at the rink.



Kristeen McKee / Contributor

Huntington students kicked off the holiday season with coffee, cookies and classic Christmas sing-alongs. It was all part of the first annual Christmas Carol Coffee House hosted by Huntington's Council Student Association (HCSA) on Sunday, November 26, 2006.

CAMPUS NEWS

Giselle Bessette sits in the 'Hot Seat'

Allow me to introduce a new, and hopefully successful feature in Lambda. I call it the Hot Seat...It is very simple. I sit down with a guest and ask them ten questions. They are sometimes serious questions, and other times a bit ridiculous, but hopefully they help to give an inside peak into the person and you might learn something you didn't know. Without further ado, I present our first installment of the Hot Seat!

Giselle Bessette is the Food Service Director for Aramark here at Laurentian University. She has been at Laurentian for two years now, as she answers ten questions in the Hot Seat.

Matt: What are your responsibilities as Food Service Director?

Giselle: Basically to oversee all of the different food outlets on campus. Making sure that everything is ready on time, that everyone is well trained...basically everything.

M: What do you like most about your job?

G: The people. I love interaction. I've had the opportunity to

move up and go district, but I didn't have that interaction.

M: What is the greatest challenge that you face in your position?

G: There are so many...trying to stay on top of everything. Making sure we provide the best service possible. Great service and great food keeps the customers coming back.

M: What kinds of things go on behind the scenes at Aramark that students aren't aware of?

G: We give a lot back and kids don't seem to notice. We have so many associations and charities...and we want to be here at Laurentian.

M: You catch a lot of backlash from the student body. Does it ever bother you?

G: Sometimes...I feel it's unfair. I think we need to look at both sides. If you don't get my side [of the story], then of course we'll always look like the bad guys, and I think that's unfair.

M: What do you do about these complaints?

G: One way or the other I resolve them. You have to find the information that will help. If someone has complaint, they will tell a few other people. If you don't resolve it, then may tell 10 or 20 people. I also think it matters how you resolve it.

M: If you were stranded on an island and could choose one item from the Aramark menu to eat, what would it be? Why?

G: If there was only one I'd have to say...me, it would have to be chicken. Not only is it my favourite, but it would give me the strength to continue. It would fill me up and sustain me. Don't get me wrong, I love fruits and vegetables...but they only go so far [laughs].

M: What is the most popular item on the menu?

G: Chicken.

M: What is one item on the menu that you wouldn't touch, and why?

G: I would never put anything on the menu that I wouldn't eat. If I see something that is getting dry, I remove it. I wouldn't expect anyone to eat it if I



Matthew Desrosiers / LAMBDA

Giselle Bessette, Food Service Director for Aramark, has been at Laurentian for two years now. She has played a vital role in the development of the new Tim Hortons being built on campus.

wouldn't.

ment or a way we can improve.

M: What is one thing you want students to know about Giselle Bessette?

G: That I'm approachable. I'm always here, and I want some feedback. That's why we want to put together a focus group. I've always got my door open. It doesn't have to be a problem either, it could be just a com-

If there is anyone that you would like to see in the Hot Seat, please send an e-mail to the Editor at lambda@laurentian.ca with your request. Those who receive the most votes will be interviewed in the next edition of Lambda.

Laurentian hosts LEAF breakfast

BY AIMEE-LYND GUERIN
CONTRIBUTOR

The year 2006 marks the 17th Anniversary of Sudbury's LEAF Breakfast (Legal Education and Action Fund). For the past four years the Sudbury community has been gathering at Laurentian University's Great Hall at 7am for this annual event in celebration of Person's Day. LEAF is a national, non-profit organization and exists to advance equality of women and girls in Canada through litigation, law reform and public education.

This year we welcomed Sally Armstrong a journalist who has traveled the world to tell the stories of women's oppression in Afghanistan. Her fantastic work has earned her the moniker "Afghanistan Sally". Sally Armstrong has exposed the struggles of women in Afghanistan with the CBC documentary "Daughters of Afghanistan", which can be found at Blockbuster. Sally's talk was highly enlightening and made this a LEAF breakfast to remember.

This year, as an added bonus, Laurentian University has added an extra day to the celebration. On Thursday October 19th, the director of Litigation at LEAF, Fiona Sampson, met with over 100 Sudbury High School students in the Thorneloe Theatre to explain to this younger generation the important work that LEAF has accomplished in the

past. Some of the cases mentioned that day were the Jane Doe case of 1986 in Toronto, the Rape "backlash" case, as well as the Barney Case. These are only a small sample of the high profile cases in which LEAF has intervened and ensured fair representation for all parties involved. LEAF was supposed to be funded by the Status of Women for their most recent piece of litigation, however due to federal Conservative government cut-

backs to the women lobby groups, LEAF is now dependent on donated funds from the people. If you are interested in making a donation to LEAF please visit the electronic portal CanadaHelps.org.

LEAF makes a difference by getting involved in cases that establish important principles of equality for women and girls in Canada. Give generously since this year LEAF no longer has funding.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BY KAYLA TURPIN
CONTRIBUTOR

The judges for this year's event were Nick Bicanic, Tanya Biscardi, originator of LUL Idol, and Bob Hall, a Laurentian University Music professor. After the ten performers had an opportunity to wow the crowd with their talents, the judges deliberated to make a decision on who

Once the performers were

BY NADINE VISSCHEDYK
A&E EDITOR

Graffiti, in any form, is considered a crime when it is done on private property. This means that most graffiti that you see in a city is illegal. Whether or not the illegal aspect of graffiti is a part of the appeal is debatable, but what is not debatable is whether or not graffiti is art.

The real winners of this event were Easter Seals, as all proceeds and money raised during this event were donated to Camp Woodeden, located in London, Ont. Cora Villhauer,

coordinator of this year's LUL's Got Talent, explained why this charity was chosen. "We used the same charity as last year. It is a really good camp and it costs the campers a lot of money to attend it for the week. It is important for these children to be able to attend camp and experience the same things that other children would experience." A grand total of \$1800 was raised during this event.

legislation.

"Graffiti's usually cool; I think it pretty much spices up the look of a place. It just depends on where it is, I mean, some buildings aren't acceptable," said Frankie Carlucci, a student at Laurentian University. That seems to be the general consensus among students. Jason Duffy agrees. "Graffiti makes the world more colorful, it makes cities easier on the eyes". However, students also seem to be in agreement that some buildings are off limits, such as churches, and private homes. Anywhere that already has art on it seems to be off limits too, such as commissioned murals.

Graffiti isn't new to this generation, or even to our parent's generation. Graffiti has been around since the early days, since ancient Greece. There is evidence on the walls of ancient caves in Greece, with poems about hating the goddess Venus. There are spelling mistakes in the poem, and the words are only spelled phonetically which leads historians to believe that it was just a layperson who wrote it. The content was also against general belief, which is still the style of graffiti.

Whether you believe graffiti should be legal or not, the truth is that it is an art form that has been around for a long time, and its not going anywhere soon.



Kayla Turpin / Contributor

LUL's Got Talent first place winner Mike Fournier rocks out on stage at the Fraser Auditorium

uSudbury Courses offered 2007W							
Syn	Code	Title	Cr.	Faculty	Days	Time	Room
7209	NATI 2407	Native People and New comers in Western Canada The fur trade, treaties, missionaries, Métis, First-Nation self-assertion.	3	R. Spielmann	Tues	7 p.m.	US-110
7211	NATI 2516	Intermediate Nishnaabemwin A Communication in response to questions from a second person : what, when, where, how and why.	3	M.A. Corbiere	Mon/ Wed/ Fri	10:30 a.m.	US-111
7212	NATI 2517	Intermediate Nishnaabemwin B Communication in sentences that have either a first or second person as the object.	3	M.A. Corbiere	Mon/ Wed/ Fri	11:30 a.m.	US-111
7216	NATI 3116	Aboriginal People and the Criminal Justice System Identifies the problems encountered in the system and studies proposals for reform.	3	K. FitzMaurice	Tues/ Thu	5:30 p.m.	US-113
7886	PHIL 2256	Philosophy of Education Intelligence, indoctrination, authority, students' interests and rights, aesthetic and moral education.	3	R. Fillion	Tues	7 p.m.	US-113
7925	PHIL 2876	Business Ethics Freedom, innovation, technology and visions of the future.	3	C. Collier	Tues/ Thurs	2:30 p.m.	US-113
7255	RLST 2107	Introduction to the Christian Testament Social, political and historical milieu of the Christian biblical traditions.	3	A. Gagné	Tues/ Thurs	2:30 p.m.	US-114
7264	RLST 2256	Islam: Origins and Development Muhammed, the Qur'an and the development of the major Muslin sects and ethics.	3	J. Laughlin	Tues	7 p.m.	US-114
7265	RLST 2266	Death and Immortality in the Religions of the East Death and plans of salvation in Asian religion, Hinduism, Buddhism, Daoism and Confucianism.	3	J. Laughlin	Wed	7 p.m.	US-113
7274	RLST 3136	Wisdom Literature Life, death, suffering and justice in biblical times.	3	A. Gagné	Mon	7 p.m.	US-114

For 4th year courses, please consult the timetable and/or the Department

The University of Sudbury also offers Envision courses – cce.laurentian.ca

Deadline for Financial Aid: Thursday, January 25, 2007 – Forms available in room US-316

COLUMNS

Getting it Write: Cogent, competent and convincing conclusions

BY KRISTINA HOPKINS
CONTRIBUTOR

When writing academically, by the time we get to the end of the paper we are often out of steam. What's left to say? The conclusion is essential as it is the last thing that is left on your reader's palate and often what your reader remembers most.

Not everyone has the same writing process. Try different things, like writing through to the conclusion, walking away and coming back to it. Or, leave it out altogether until you really feel your arguments are in good form. Sometimes the essence of the paper will present itself after you think you've finished – so be sure to leave yourself plenty of time.

Q & A time!

Q: What should I include in my conclusion?

A: Restate your thesis statement, but don't retype it; rework the thesis and then restate it.

You should summarize your main points or arguments. Use statements that force your reader to think about your topic after they put the paper down.

Q: What should I avoid doing in my conclusion?

A: Try to avoid phrases such as "in conclusion" and "to sum up", they're painfully obvious. Strive to go beyond just summarizing your arguments. Don't

simply echo your introduction, or the paper will leave the reader with the feeling that the argument has gone nowhere.

Q: How long should my conclusion be?

A: The length of your conclusion is largely dependent on the length of your paper. Try to keep it around the same length, but no longer than your introduction.

Q: What's the "So what factor"?

A: Once you've worked through the points of your argument, ask yourself "So what"? You need to do more than list your points or arguments. Tell your reader why the points or arguments matter.

Q: What if I've written the whole paper and I'm just out of ideas?

A: This happens; try taking a break from your paper. Again, offer suggestions for further thought on your topic. Keep those suggestions clear though, you don't want your reader wondering about explanations.

Q: Ok, but how else can I give my paper a feeling of closure?

A: Try referring to a part of your introduction, for example, if you refer to a particular image like "the iron curtain", repeat it in your conclusion.

Q: Is it ok to say "this is my opinion" or, "I'm not an expert"?

A: Absolutely not. Don't make concessions – it reduces your credibility. Your reader should feel that you know what you're talking about at the end of your paper.

Here's an example of a conclusion for an essay. The writer looked at character boundaries and the significance of identity in Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park*, and Brian Friel's *Translations*. Note that she mentioned the image "the veil of colonization" in her introduction.

In other words, while identity for the characters of these two works equates to family, class and language, the underlying current of activity, that is, what is going on around them, colours the results differently. The characters at different levels of awareness ebb back and forth, some transcending boundaries with great success, some to a lesser degree. Some find comfort in their boundaries, some find them painfully restricting. Identity is absolutely tied to name. To the characters of *Mansfield Park*, changing a name is something that has an air of possibilities; it can mean a wonderful new way of life. For the characters of *Translations*, it can mean losing themselves to the veil of colonization.

Planned events to help you quit smoking

BY ROBIN UREKAR
CONTRIBUTOR

Leave the Pack Behind (LTPB) is a tobacco awareness and smoking cessation program in its second year at Laurentian University. LTPB is a program funded by the Government of Ontario and in part by Health Canada; it aims to provide smoking information, resources, and support to post-secondary students on 23 Ontario University and College campuses.

At Laurentian, LTPB has a dedicated student team that works together on all LTPB campaigns. This trained student team endeavors to serve the needs of their peers who want to quit or reduce their smoking habit, to disassociate drinking with smoking, or stay smoke-free. In addition to peer support, LTPB works closely with Laurentian's Health Services and their staff of Health Professionals. LTPB hosts a display twice a week in the Great Hall Foyer, from 11:30 – 1:30 on Wednesday and Thursday. Students who visit the display can receive information and resources tailored to both smokers and non-smokers. Free carbon monoxide (CO) testing is available at the display, as well as referrals to our campus health clinic. Every student that takes a CO test is entered into a weekly raffle for a chance to win a gift certificate donated from a variety of Sudbury businesses.

Tobacco use is the number one preventable public health problem that our society faces. Recent research indicates that 40% of university students smoke at least occasionally; 10% of young smokers report that they began smoking after the age of 18. This is most likely due to the

fact that post-secondary students are the first legal cohort that tobacco advertising campaigns can target. The tobacco industry spends approximately 8.2 billion dollars per year on advertising according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), with many of those dollars aimed at appealing to young adults. LTPB was created with the intention of combating the omnipresent influence of tobacco advertising. Furthermore, the public health strategies addressing cigarette smoking to date have largely ignored the young adult post-secondary cohort.

LTPB has an annual Let's Make a Deal! contest that provides incentives to Laurentian students who reduce or quit smoking, un-couple smoking with alcohol consumption or stay smoke-free for the duration of the eight-week contest. So far, for the 2006/07 contest we have over \$3000 worth of prizes to give away! Including a 3-credit tuition waiver (courtesy of the Office of the President), free pizza for a year (contributed by Topper's Pizza) an iPod Shuffle (donated by L.A.M.P.S.), and many more! Contest registration runs for one-week only, from January 15 to 19. Students are encouraged to come by our display in the Great Hall Foyer between the hours of 11 to 3 to register for the contest, but they must bring with them a non-smoking buddy. Contest registrants will receive a 'survival kit' that contains LTPB resources, contest details, freebies, candy, games and much more, just for signing up. For more information, check out our website at, <http://campus.leavethepackbehind.org/laurentian/laurentian.php>

Sustainable Tips: Have a sustainable holiday season

TIP: HAVE A SUSTAINABLE HOLIDAY SEASON

REASON: When the holiday season approaches, the developed world becomes gripped by a frenzy of consumption, and good environmental resolutions are temporarily forgotten. Each year, North Americans spend \$6.4 billion dollars on decorations and more than twice that on presents, resulting in 1/5 more trash being thrown out than what is normally thrown out during the rest of the year. When you consider that half of humanity lives on less than \$2 per day, how can you not agree that something needs to change? We need to pay more attention to the social and environmental effect of our purchases.

HOW TO:

1. Make your own decorations
2. Use ribbon or cord, instead of sticky tape, to seal your gifts so that you can reuse the wrapping paper
3. Give a waste-free gift - tickets to a community theatre, a sporting event, a massage, or a home-cooked organic meal
4. Give locally produced gifts – this will not only help the local economy but you will also be avoiding the hidden costs that are involved in international transportation (i.e. more expensive price tags, the pollution from the vehicles used to transport the

goods to Canada)

5. Recycle whatever waste you can, including your Christmas tree

If you like this tip, check out "365 Ways to Save the Earth" by Philippe Bourseiller.
sustainable@laurentian.ca



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SPORTS

Varsity basketball teams complete longest trip of season

BY LAUREN LAROCQUE
SPORTS EDITOR

It was a busy week-end for Laurentian basketball players as they embarked on their longest road trip of the regular season.

The Voyageurs were looking for their first win of the season. Their first game of the trip came Friday night against the McMaster Marauders. Unfortunately, a win would still elude the team as they lost 82-73. Despite playing a tough game, the Voyageurs missed key shots and some free throws that ultimately resulted in the loss. Craig Bauslaugh led the team with fifteen points and seven rebounds. Brody Bishop and Jason Brown also had a strong game, with thirteen and twelve points respectively. After the game, head coach Virgil Hill commented on the loss, saying "Again we were so close to getting a victory. We need to correct our mistakes to be able to win".

After the game, the Voyageurs hopped on a plane and flew from Hamilton to Thunder Bay to prepare for Saturday's game versus the Lakehead Thunderwolves. "Playing in the Thunderdome is always an experience. We must stay focused on shot selection and having patience at the offensive end of the court," said Hill.

Playing in the

Thunderdome proved to be a positive experience for the Voyageurs as they won their first game of the season against the Thunderwolves. The final score was 72-66. The Voyageurs' best plays of the game came in the first half, as they managed to hold a ten point lead at the end of the first. This turned out to be their biggest lead during the game. Despite beating with Thunderwolves in rebounds 26-22, the Voyageurs turned the ball over twenty times, for a season high. The Voyageurs were able to overlook the negative aspects of the game, and celebrate the win. "It was a great win for us", said Hill. "It gets us in the win column and we'll go from there".

Tied with seventeen points, Brody Bishop, with five rebounds, and Craig Bauslaugh, with three rebounds, topped the scoring for the Voyageurs. Alex Whiteman also played a solid game, finishing with fourteen points and two rebounds.

The Lady Vees met a similar fate Friday night against the Marauders, falling 89-57. Playing versus McMaster was a challenge for the Lady Vees, as the Marauders are the number one team in the country and had a record of 6-0 going into Friday's game.

The Lady Vees managed to stay close to the Marauders during the first quarter, but by half-

time were down by seventeen points and were never able to recover. They had some great plays, but were unable to hand the Marauders their first loss of the season.

Cassandra Carpenter, with fourteen points and ten rebounds, and Lisa Roberts, with nine points and two rebounds, led the Lady Vees in points. Head Coach Mike Clarke was disappointed with the loss, saying "I don't think anyone played any good tonight. Overall, we need to regroup and be ready for Lakehead tomorrow".

Unfortunately the Lady Vees were unable to defeat the Thunderwolves, finding a second loss in as many days. The first half the game was uncharacteristically weak for the team, with the Lady Vees falling behind by ten points in the first quarter. This deficit would increase to fifteen points by halftime.

The Lady Vees started to show glimpses of their usual strong plays during the third quarter. Lakehead soon matched the Lady Vees again, making shots from every angle and bringing the Lady Vees down by another thirteen points. By the time the final buzzer rang, the Lady Vees were down 95-65.

After the game, coach Clarke said that "This was not a very successful weekend for us. We need to regroup, to get mentally tougher, and be prepared for a tough weekend versus Western and Windsor".

Some positive news for the team is that Cassandra Carpenter is currently ranked second in OUA scoring. Also playing a noteworthy game versus Lakehead was Melissa Stenzl, with ten points and four rebounds, and Amanda McConnell with nine points and four rebounds.

Up next, the Voyageurs and Lady Vees host Western on Friday, December 1 and Windsor on Saturday, December 2. All games are held in the Ben Avery Gymnasium, and tip-off for the women's games is at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. for the men's.

Aqua Vees swim hard at OUA divisional championships

BY LAUREN LAROCQUE
SPORTS EDITOR

On November 18th and 19th, the AquaVees travelled to the University of Toronto to compete in the Campbell Divisional Championships. The Divisional Championships are the OUA's championships, with division teams competing against each other. The AquaVees are members of the Campbell division, along with the McMaster Marauders, Waterloo Warriors, Wilfred Laurier Golden Hawks, Ottawa Gee-Gees, York Lions and Toronto Varsity Blues.

With solid swims all round and numerous personal best times coming from many swimmers, the women's team placed fourth and the men placed fifth, which combined to an overall fourth place finish.

With teams allowed to enter a maximum of eighteen men and women respectively, the team was faced with the unique challenge of having to compete with only nine men and eleven women. This meant the AquaVees had added pressure put on them to post fast times and stay motivated. Head coach Phil Parker said "They have to head into the meet with the attitude of winning their heats. They have trained very well over the last three weeks leading into this meet and they must now stay confident. Training levels have remained quite high which will be a good test of their mental toughness. If everyone wins their heat, whether it is the first or last heat, best times will likely be the outcome and we can slowly make our way up the standings".

The swimmers were able to overcome the pressure and still have some fun. Fourth year swimmer Jaimie Scobie saw the positive in being a

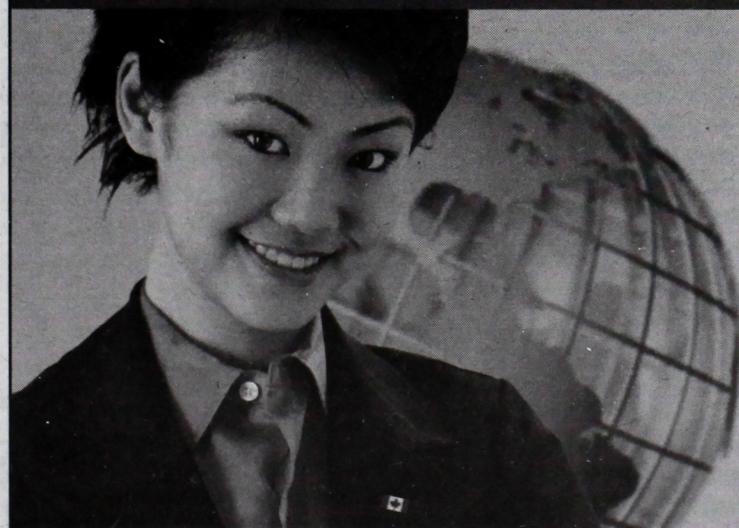
team veteran. "Going into my fourth Divisionals there is a lot less pressure and you are able to relax more and have fun with your teammates. By far Laurentian is still the loudest swim team in cheering, especially Virginia Stonehouse yelling 'ya did good' after a good race". Scobie had a stellar meet, with three personal bests. Scobie also gave credit to her teammates, acknowledging their fast times as well, saying "a lot of people got personal bests or at least season's bests at the meet, so success wasn't just in our placing".

The fourth place women's team was once again led by rookie Kyleigh Commito. Commito touched the wall with the fastest time and a first place in the 200m freestyle. Commito continued her trend of top finishes, placing second in both the 400 and 800m freestyle, and a third place finish in the 200m individual medley. Every swim produced a CIS qualifying time. Courtney Hicks, a fourth year veteran of the team, joined Commito in the top three finishes, with a third place finish in the 200m butterfly. Hicks also posted a fifth place finish in the 100m butterfly.

On the men's side, fifth year veteran Ryan Smith entered the meet looking for a CIS qualifying time. Smith has been chasing a CIS qualifying time all season, narrowly missing them on several occasions. He ended the meet with second place finishes in the 400m individual medley, 200m butterfly and 200m backstroke, and a third place finish in the 200m individual medley. All four of these swims were done in a CIS qualifying time. Blair Smith also had a strong meet, finishing first in the 400m freestyle, second in the 1500m freestyle, and securing top five finishes in the 200m freestyle and 400m individual medley. Rookie Mike Murray also swam the 1500m freestyle at the meet, and shaved an amazing two minutes off his time. If Murray continues this trend, he will be a Voyageur to watch out for in coming years.

After the meet, head coach Phil Parker said "We are very pleased with both teams' efforts over the week-end. All swims were either season best or personal best times. With only 9 men and 11 women swimming this week-end, the 5th and 4th place standings are quite high". Up next for the AquaVees is a few more weeks of training, then the team heads off to Sarasota, Florida for their winter training camp.

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GENERAL NEWS

Flaherty loves the tax cuts

Fiscal update mentions post-secondary education, but no price tag yet

BY NADYA BELL

CUP OTTAWA BUREAU CHIEF
OTTAWA (CUP)

Next in line after paying down the debt and cutting taxes, post-secondary education has made it as one of the Conservative government's priorities — but the Department of Finance is not ready to say how much it's worth.

In the fiscal update on Nov. 23, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty gave a presentation to the finance committee based on a few thin blue documents.

In the policy document, the government says it supports post-secondary education as a way to improve people's skills, and that it will provide "stable and predictable funding" to the provinces and territories for

post-secondary education.

Phillippe Ouellette, national director of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations, says stable funding will likely be a dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education. But he says that commitment is nothing new.

"In this report there is really not that much for students at all. When they call it an economic update, it is really just an update on priorities," he said.

"We have seen no money, no numbers to the promises we have been hearing for the last year from this government," he said.

The government also supports an education act, saying the provinces should develop shared objectives and clarify

their roles and responsibilities.

Two other policy commitments calls for the government to modernize the student financial assistance program and market Canada's universities internationally.

The Canadian Council on Learning, a government-funded corporation that researches post-secondary education, welcomed the focus on learning in the fiscal update, saying they believe it mirrors Canadians' commitment to education.

One area Flaherty was able to put numbers to was the government's desire to eliminate the national debt by 2021.

His plan calls for billions of dollars to pay down the debt every year, with the money saved on interest being put into tax cuts.

On top of putting \$3 billion towards the debt every year, the government says any extra money or "unanticipated surpluses" will also go to lowering taxes and the debt.

"We will continue to reduce the tax burden for Canadians — various kinds of taxes — and we have to make some choices about capital taxes, the timing of the GST reduction and about personal income taxes," Flaherty said in a scrum after the announcement.

"We'll do as much tax reform as we can, remaining fiscally prudent."

The budget documents put numbers on debt payment and tax cuts, but only offer general policies for developing the country. The principles call for tax cuts, encouraging business investment and improving the labour force and infrastructure.

"The federal government has core federal responsibilities relating certainly to the banking function, relating to our military, to our role in infrastructure and post-secondary education," Flaherty said.

He also mentioned provincial transfer payments and equalization as federal responsibilities.

Opposition members were not impressed with the update. Liberal MP John McCallum said the government has switched to a new way of calculating the debt so that it is much smaller. He says it would take 160 years to fully eliminate the debt.

Flaherty has "chosen some gimmicky alternative debt measure," McCallum said. "There is no change in their debt pay-down compared to us [the Liberals]."

NDP Leader Jack Layton called the Conservative approach reckless.

"They're saying we're going to pay down the mortgage unbelievably fast, it doesn't matter if people are sick, if our kids are trying to go to school, it doesn't matter if our environment needs help... we're going to focus single-mindedly on reducing taxes and debt," he said.

"I don't know of any family that will put off their basic needs to pay the mortgage," Layton said. "That's not a balanced approach and it's not the right approach for this country."

McGuinty reveals energy rebate plan for forest industry

Plan is a step in the right direction, but not enough, Ontario Forest Coalition says

BY DOUG DIACZUK

ARGUS (LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY)
THUNDER BAY (ONT)

Members of the forest industry in northwestern Ontario were eagerly awaiting relief from the McGuinty government, but the long-awaited announcement fell short of delivering a concrete solution to the problem of high energy costs.

Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty announced a \$140-million plan that will allow pulp and paper mills in northwestern Ontario to qualify for rebates to alleviate high costs of energy.

This energy rebate plan could potentially reduce electricity costs by 15 per cent over the next three years for eligible companies. The Northern Pulp and Paper Electricity Transition Program will provide rebates to pulp and paper mills that buy a minimum of 50,000 megawatt hours annually and commit to energy efficiency.

The forest industry was originally looking for an electricity rate of \$45 per megawatt hour, almost half of the current market value of \$70.

McGuinty admitted that this is not a complete solution, telling the Chronicle Journal, "I see it primarily as shoring up the existing industries."

He went on to say that the pulp and paper industry is the anchor of the forest industry, "so what we have developed instead is a program that will provide much greater benefit to the anchors of the forest sector."

Iain Angus, Thunder Bay city councillor and Ontario Forest Coalition chair said that though this plan is a step in the right direction, it is not enough to help the industry.

"It's not a solution for everybody, nor was it billed as one by the government," he said.

"In terms of the Forestry Coalition, we provided a balanced response. This is a good

step but more needs to be done. We still have an electricity price that is much higher than our competitor provinces," Angus told the Argus.

Angus said that not all mills will qualify for the rebate and that some mills will be left out.

"For the larger electrical users, those who produce mechanical paper, this will help them deal with their high cost structure. This won't help the saw mills, the OSB [oriented strand board] mills, it won't help to the same degree the mills that produce pulp as their only product."

Angus did say that there are positive aspects of the energy rebate plan and used the example of the Cascades Inc. mill that was recently shut down in Thunder Bay.

"For some it will make life easier. It may in fact be the final positive piece of straw for the former Cascades mill. It will allow the new potential owners to fine tune the business plan and

reopen that mill and put 300 people back to work."

But the industry is still in a bad state. Angus warned people not to see this as a complete solution to the problems plaguing the region.

"It would be naive to think all is rosy," he said. "There are still lots of problems out there. There will be more mill closures and that's why as a coalition we are continuing to pursue the reduction of costs."

Angus also stated that the forestry coalition would continue to push for a better energy pricing structure to make the Northwestern Ontario forestry industry more competitive with other markets.

"The government thinks every time they make an announcement 'Well, that's it, we got them out of our hair.' Northerners don't work that way. We keep going after governments until we get what we need or what is our due."

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OPINION

Citizendium is citizendumb

The flaw of Wikipedia is not inaccuracy, it's the relative ease with which it can be vandalized

BY ADAM GAUMONT
THE GATEWAY (UNIVERSITY
OF ALBERTA)
EDMONTON (CUP)

In response to admittedly deserved criticism regarding quality and reliability, the Wikimedia Foundation has announced that it will be launching Citizendium — a new branch of Wikipedia that will be expert-written as opposed to the current free-for-all format.

At this point, it seems almost too obvious to wax philosophic on the merits of Wikipedia, but the infamous online resource is only five years old — a testament to the blinding speed at which the world of information technology changes.

However, although it may be unreliable in some cases, Wikipedia is still extremely

accurate — and, in a sense, expertly written as well.

There are two main concepts that explain how and why Wikipedia works the way it does: the first is the "Delphi Effect," whereby, in the words of computer-culture theorist Eric Raymond, "the averaged opinion of a mass of equally expert (or equally ignorant) observers is quite a bit more reliable a predictor than the opinion of a single randomly chosen one of the observers."

As proof of this, a recent study by the science journal Nature found that, comparing similar scientific articles in Wikipedia and Encyclopædia Britannica side-by-side, each resource had the same average amount of errors per article — and in that sense, that the two were equal in reliability.

The other basic tenet of

Wikipedia — and the reason why it vastly outperforms all other reference sources in terms of breadth, growth, and accuracy — is that of open-source development, a movement that has its origins in the early days of computer hacking.

This theory holds that non-proprietary software whose code (or in this case, information) is developed and reviewed by a maximal number of users will produce the most robust, reliable and adaptable end-product.

Humans have long dreamed of amassing all the world's knowledge, from the library of Alexandria to the French Encyclopédie. But no amount of gens des lettres will be able to accomplish this feat; it's only with a massive, vibrant, and adaptive effort from damn near everyone that

we can even come close. To take away this maximal number of users and reduce it to a few handpicked experts will therefore only grind Wikipedia's currently steady informational march to a halt.

Apart from over-anxious developers, then, the potentially fatal flaw of Wikipedia is not a lack of accuracy; rather, it's the relative ease with which the site can be abused, tampered with, and otherwise vandalized.

After all, if anyone with an Internet connection and a bit of online know-how can edit it, then even if only one per cent of all users were malicious, that would still be 10,000 vandals out of one million users.

Of course, the likelihood of intellectual vandalism depends largely on the likelihood that it will be in someone's interest, political or otherwise, to alter or misrepresent a given bit of information.

Looking for some technical specifications or mathematical formulae? Wikipedia would be a great place to start. Writing a paper on U.S. foreign policy or stem-cell research? Well, you'd best steer clear of the Internet in general.

But Citizendium won't be an adequate replacement. Although an expert-written site seems — on the surface — to

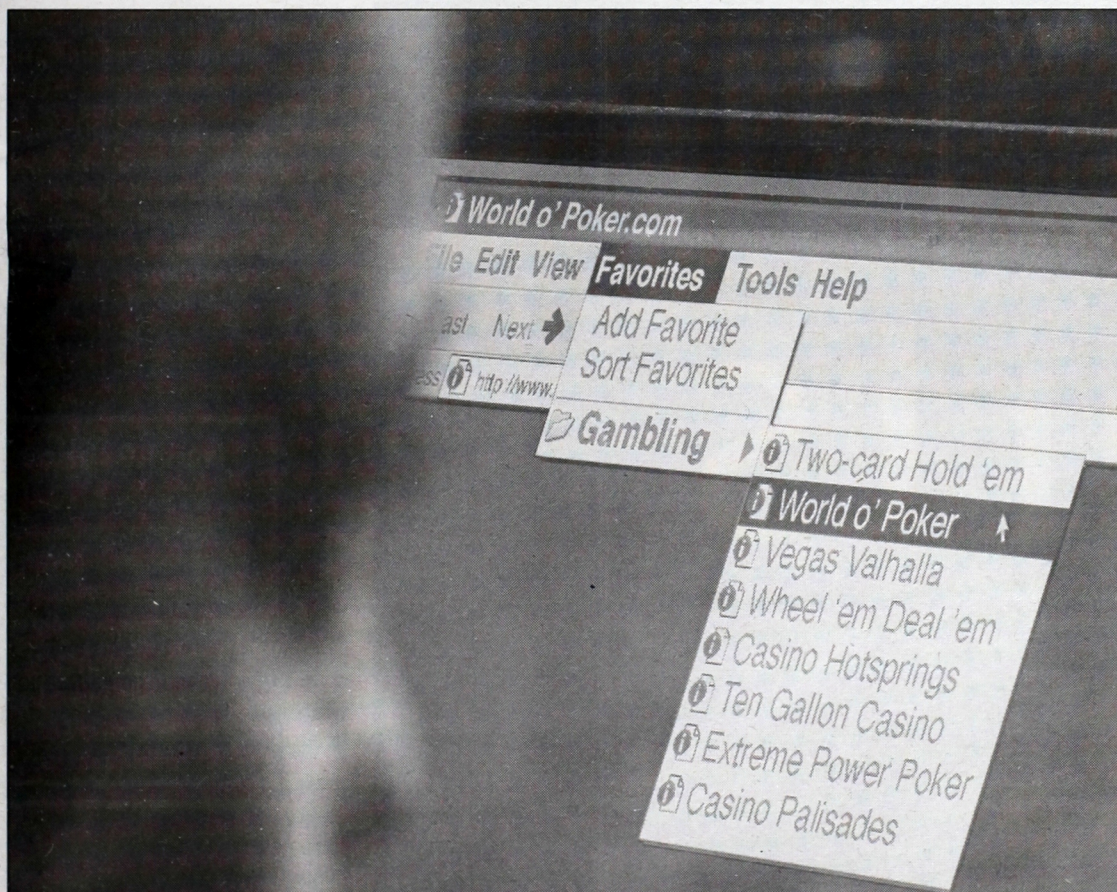
be more scholarly and reliable, such a service would merely be caught between the traditional, tight-knit encyclopedia form and its sprawling online counterpart.

Even if Citizendium were equally expert as an established reference work, it would just be one amongst several — though free, which would be its chief advantage — and never quite able to shake off the stigma of its embattled literary appendix.

As nearly every post-secondary instructor will tell you, Wikipedia ought not to be used as one's sole academic reference anyway. It's difficult to believe that this consensus will be quick to change even if this cleaner, more sterile version is introduced.

The solution, then, is not to abandon Wikipedia's open-edit format, but to improve its security. The user-account system is a good start (though it's still pretty soft), and the various disclaimers and lock-downs are actually quite effective.

Add in a few more measures to detect the identity of the digital Neanderthals and ne'er-do-wells out there, and Wikipedia can be a brilliant, reliable and all-encompassing resource for years to come.



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CAMPUS NEWS



Matthew Desrosiers / LAMBDA

Students Wilson Tan (left) and Rikke Yeung (right) study late into the night preparing for exams. At 1am they were found sitting on the 3rd floor of the student centre, hard at work. It is that time of year when late night cram sessions are commonplace.

Pluto, we hardly knew you

BY ALEXANDRA TAYLOR
SCIENCE & TECH EDITOR

On the far end of the Milky Way, there sits a small, barren ball of rock. Mocked by his peers and largely ignored by the sun, Pluto is lonely. Unfortunately, things seem to be getting worse instead of better. In August, the International Astronomical Union (IAU) downgraded Pluto from a planet to a dwarf planet, altering the landscape of millions of universe models and elementary school handouts.

The International Astronomical Union is recognized by astronomers as the official authority responsible for naming stars, planets and aster-

oids. In August, they created the first 'official' definition of a planet, which they define as "having sufficient mass for its self-gravity to overcome ridged body forces." According to Resolution 5, the differences between planets and dwarf planets is that a planet has "cleared the neighborhood around its orbit," whereas a dwarf planet has many asteroids and other objects near its orbit. Unfortunately, Pluto failed the test due to its overlapping elliptical orbit with Neptune.

"Contemporary observations are changing our understanding of planetary systems, and it is important that our nomenclature for objects reflect our current understanding," reads Resolution 5. "The word 'planet' originally described 'wanderers' that were known only as moving lights in the sky. Recent discoveries lead us to create a new definition."

Initial news reports stated that the outcome of the IAU conference had been a decision that over 50 planetary bodies would become official planets, but plans were later revised, resulting in a final declaration of 8 planets and dozens of dwarf planets. Three new planetary bodies were added to the list, including 2003 UB313, whose discovery last year led to the debate about whether Pluto should be considered a planet.

Discovered in 1930, and named after the Roman god of the underworld, Pluto has an icy surface composed of nitrogen and methane and weighs just a fifth of the weight of our moon.

Pluto also received a name demotion, now officially named 'asteroid number 134340', although most astronomers have stated that they will continue to use Pluto when researching and describing the planetary body.

Pluto's status has been controversial for some time, and has always been considered a peculiar planet. Pluto is the only known heavenly body that rotates with the same orbit as its moon. Therefore, unlike the earth and our moon, Pluto and Charon continuously face each other.

There has been much public opposition to the demotion of the planet, including protest concerts in Canada and letter writing campaigns in other parts of the world. Over 300 astronomers so far have signed a petition protesting the recently adopted new definition for planets – which excludes Pluto. The astronomers do not necessarily oppose taking Pluto's planet status away, but they believe the new definition is flawed and will confuse the public.

Most students agree that they will continue to view Pluto as a planet and its legacy will live on in outdated textbooks throughout the world. Despite the IAU decision, Pluto remains a mysterious and beautiful heavenly body and will not be forgotten.

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